

of Cuba and the U.S. Mr. Ferrer paved the way for generations of Cuban singers to come and it is my hope that their music will continue to reach the hearts of Americans and people throughout the world.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an obituary from the August 8th edition of the New York Times.

[From the New York Times, August 8, 2005]

IBRAHIM FERRER, 78, CUBAN SINGER IN  
"BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB," DIES  
(By Ben Ratliff)

Ibrahim Ferrer, the Cuban singer whose life included one of popular music's most triumphant second acts, died on Saturday in Havana. He was 78. The cause was multiple organ failure, his manager, Carmen Romero, announced.

Mr. Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long-delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician's-eye view of Cuba, the film set up Mr. Ferrer as a particularly sympathetic figure—tall, distinguished and lively, an excellent bolero singer who used space and silence in his relaxed elegant delivery to increase the drama, a man who had been rolled over by history and was now simply trying to enjoy an absurdly lucky situation.

At the time that he was enticed out of retirement to make the album, Mr. Ferrer was living on a small state pension and shining shoes in Havana for extra money.

He was not interested in recording anymore; he had retired from singing in 1991.

"An angel came and picked me up and said, 'Chico, come and do this record,' "he said in 1998. "I didn't want to do it, because I had given up on music."

Born in 1927 at a social club dance in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba—his mother went into labor on a night out—Mr. Ferrer's first professional involvement with music came at age 13, a year after he became an orphan, when he joined a band, Los Jóvenes del Son.

Later he sang with groups that included Conjunto Sorpresa, the Orquesta Chapin Chovén (with which he had a local hit, "El Platanal de Bartolo," in 1955) and the Beny Moré orchestra, with which he was a background vocalist; in 1953 he began working with Pacho Alonso's band, Maravilla de Beltrán, in Santiago. The band later moved from Santiago to Havana and called itself Los Bocucos.

For most of his career Mr. Ferrer generally sang up-tempo numbers, guarachas and sones, not the slow romantic boleros, even though he loved them. But his chance finally came on "The Buena Vista Social Club," when Mr. Cooder and Juan de Marcos González, the album's musical director, persuaded him to sing songs like "Dos Gardenias," which he had learned decades before when singing with Moré.

In 1998, the Cuban Egrem label released "Tierra Caliente," an album of older songs he had made with Los Bocucos. In 1999 the British World Circuit label (with Nonesuch in the United States) released Mr. Ferrer's first solo album, and in 2003 his second, "Buenos Hermanos"; both were produced by Mr. Cooder. In "Buenos Hermanos" Mr. Cooder took more artistic liberties, stirring the very un-Cuban accordion and the gospel singing group the Blind Boys of Alabama into the mix.

Though by this time he was in his 70's, Mr. Ferrer won a Latin Grammy for Best New Artist in 2000. "Buenos Hermanos" won a

Grammy for Best Traditional Tropical Latin Album of 2003, but Mr. Ferrer was denied a visa to enter the United States for the awards ceremony last year.

His last performance in New York was in April 2003. He was on a European tour in the week leading up to his death.

Mr. Ferrer is survived by his wife, Caridad Díaz, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, Ms. Romero said.

## TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LORENZO HOMES ASSOCIATION

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 10, 2005, the San Lorenzo Homes Association in San Lorenzo, California will celebrate 60 years as one of the oldest homeowners' associations in the United States.

During World War II, thousands came to the San Francisco Bay Area to work in the shipyards. In response to the need for housing, David D. Bohannon purchased rich farmland south of the San Lorenzo Creek where abundant fruit and vegetable crops were grown.

On May 18, 1944, builders broke ground on the first home in the Village tracts, which launched the wartime construction of the planned community. Bohannon applied a mass production method, the reverse of the normal prefab process, by moving the factory to the housing site. Each worker was trained to do a single part of the job. The assembled houses rolled off the line at the rate of one every seven hours.

The first houses had a "war worker's room" with a separate entrance to help meet the housing shortage. The 1945 three-bedroom homes were priced at \$5,950. Some rented for \$55 per month. With the slogan "Every Lot a Garden Spot" and In-Door-Outdoor Living, San Lorenzo Village grew at the rate of 1,329 houses per project.

Land was set aside for schools, churches, stores, parks, restaurants, a movie theater and the Nimtez Freeway, which was built in 1953. The construction headquarters was turned into a playground, community hall and the San Lorenzo Homeowners' Association offices.

The Association is controlled by a board of directors elected annually on staggered terms of three years each. The first meeting was held on April 5, 1945. After a few months, with the number of homes increasing so rapidly, it became apparent that it was necessary to have paid employees to devote their full time to Homes' Association work.

Through the years, the Association, with its volunteer Board of Directors and professional management, has been successful in ensuring the appearance, safety, and financial accountability of San Lorenzo Village.

Since 1945, San Lorenzo Village has grown from its original 1,329 homes to 5,686. The value of San Lorenzo Village homes has increased over eight thousand percent over the past sixty years.

I have a personal connection to the San Lorenzo Homes Association. My wife, Deborah Roderick Stark, was born in San Lorenzo and her parents, Frank and Mary Roderick, are long-time residents and members of the Association.

On behalf of the Roderick and Stark families, I applaud the exemplary contributions of the San Lorenzo Homes Association. The Association has demonstrated its leadership to maintain the integrity of this planned community and its commitment to quality service delivery to meet the needs of Village residents.

## IN CELEBRATION OF 43 YEARS OF JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions that Jamaican Americans have made to our society and to join with them in celebrating their 43rd anniversary of independent rule on August 6, 2005.

Jamaicans have been immigrating to the United States for centuries and have undeniably left their mark on cities throughout our Nation. Their contributions can be seen at the center of our neighborhoods and industries, everywhere from New York to California. They are skilled business people, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and have produced some of our Nation's greatest leaders including former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, and basketball star Patrick Ewing.

Despite the many challenges that this group has faced both in Jamaica and the U.S. they continue to hold fast to the Jamaican spirit of perseverance and continue in an extraordinary way to defy the odds. Theirs is a history of an effort that while marked with a host of successes and some failures, just like all nations, has shown that Jamaica is in a much better position today than when it became the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to assume the responsibility of nationhood.

Jamaica's record has proven that a relatively small but powerful nation can take charge of its own affairs and be a vital and vibrant member of the international community. Instead of tearing itself apart as other developing and developed nations have done, Jamaica and Jamaicans have held firm through thick and thin.

Having earned its place among the best-known developing countries at the United Nations, whether in international diplomacy, culture or excellence in sports Jamaica has been able to move far forward. Today, its people enjoy some of the longest life spans in the Western Hemisphere, about 74 years, poverty has dropped dramatically in recent years, educational opportunities continue to escalate, demonstrating the nation's commitment to invest in its people's future.

Jamaica has come so very far in the last 43 years and I look forward to its continued growth and prosperity in the future. Jamaica and Jamaicans will always hold a special place in my heart. It is impossible to imagine New York or Harlem without the contributions of Jamaicans. They are an ever-present and important part of our community from whom a great deal of our Nation's diversity is derived.

I would like to submit the following statement from Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to commemorate this historic occasion.